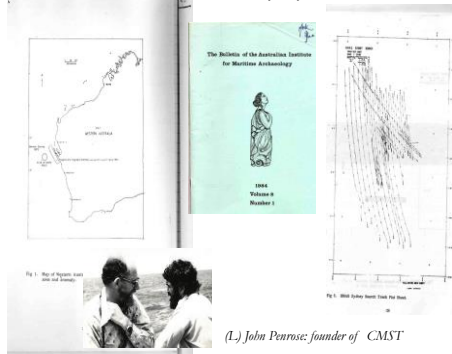
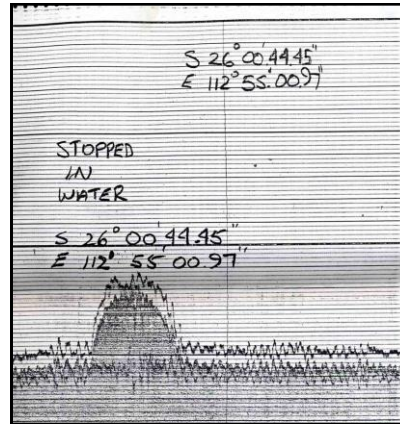


Under the terms of the 1976 Historic Shipwrecks Act, the Director of the WA Museum became responsible for the wrecks. From then on we examined reports possibly related to Sydney-Kormoran. Here was our first link with CMST in the search for HMAS Sydney.



(L.) John Pearce, founder of CMST

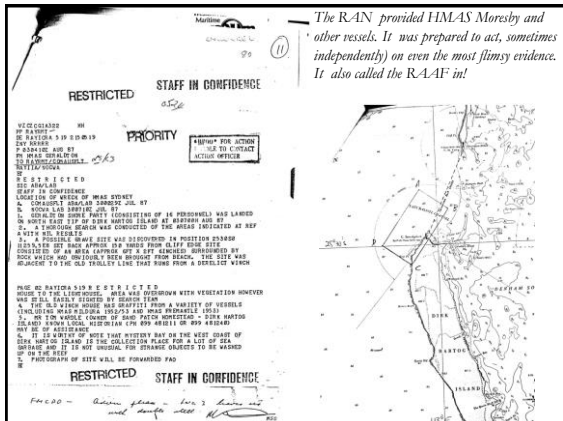


Wreck reports flowed in to WAM.

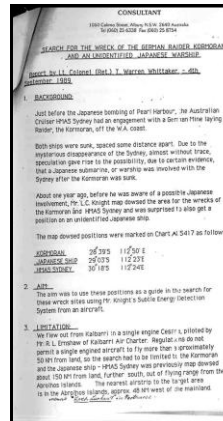
This was found off Steep Point, Shark Bay by the late Ray Pryor, a crayfisherman.

The Museum looked at the site with the RAN in 1992, and then independently.

It and the RAN examined many others similar throughout the 1980s and 90s.



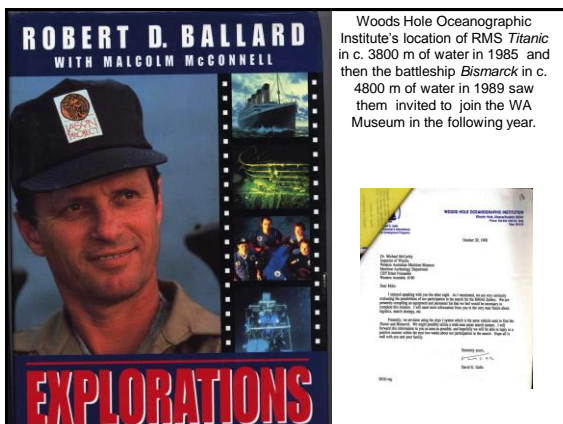
The RAN provided HMAS Moresby and other vessels. It was prepared to act, sometimes independently on even the most flimsy evidence. It also called the RAAF in!



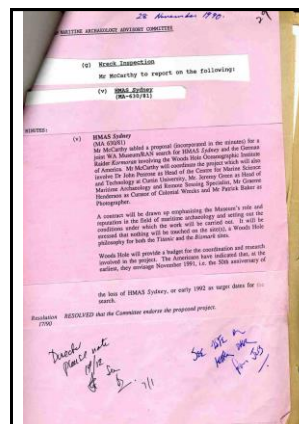
There was even a tech-based hoax for us to deal with!

According to the Australian Skeptics Association, such beliefs are often genuinely held.

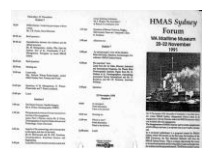
Many were drawn in by these claims and many of them appeared in an un-critical national press driven by sensational claims regardless of the effect on the relatives of those lost.



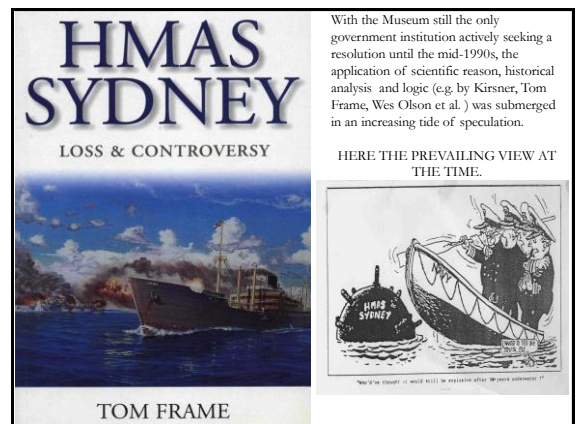
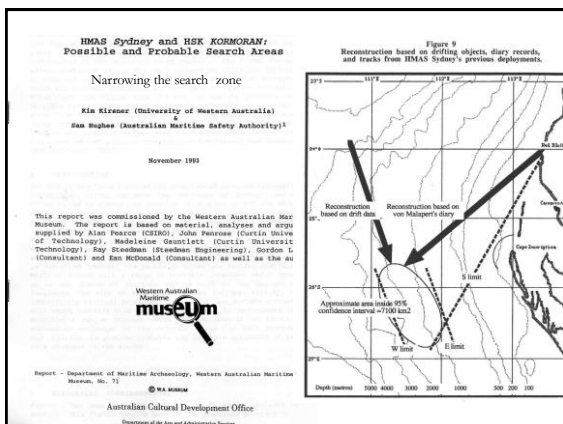
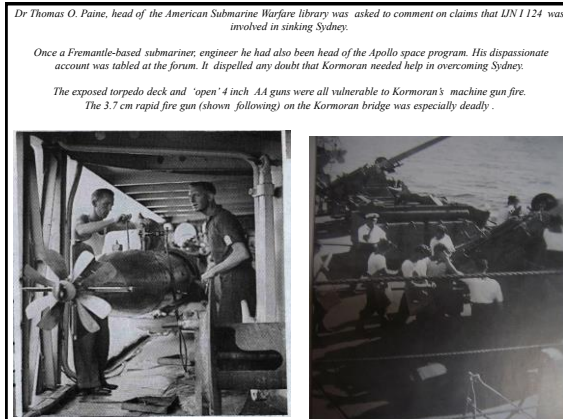
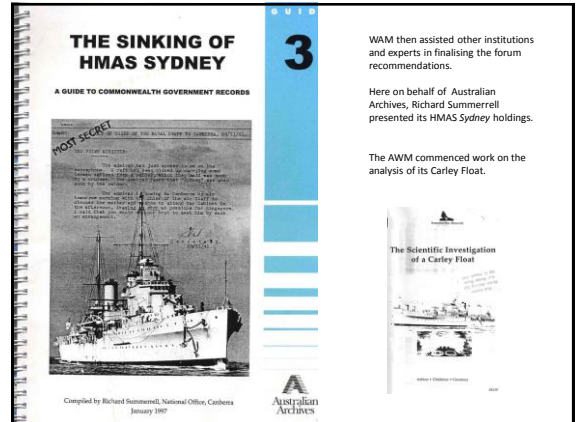
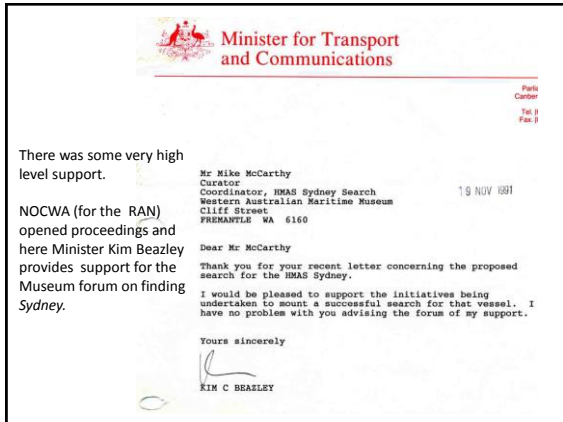
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's location of RMS Titanic in c. 3800 m of water in 1985 and then the battleship Bismarck in c. 4800 m of water in 1989 saw them invited to join the WA Museum in the following year.

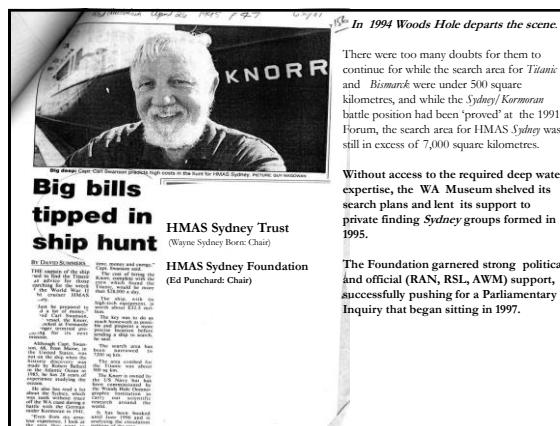
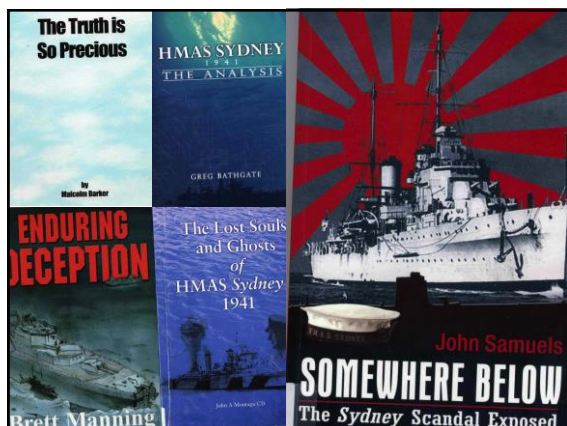


The proposal outlined the support of the RAN, the RSL, Office of War Graves, RAN, the Kormoran Survivor's Association and the German Government. In 1991 the Museum convened a seminar to encapsulate all the evidence in readiness for a possible search.



M.McCarthy and Kim Kirsner (UWA) Convenors





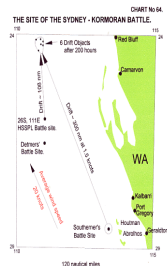
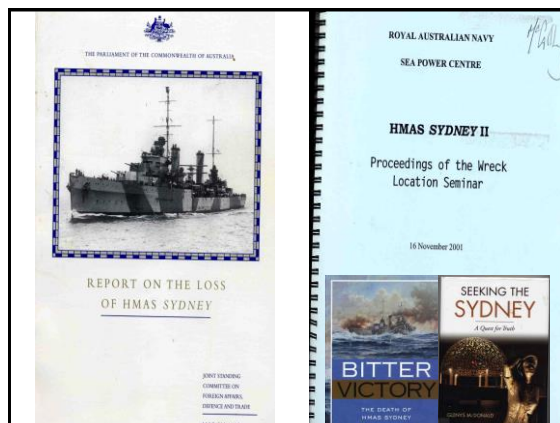
Two Private Members Bills tabled in the Federal Legislative Assembly, one by Paul Filling and the other by Steven Smith, both of the *HMAS Sydney Foundation*. These provided for the establishment and composition of a committee to investigate the loss of *HMAS Sydney*. In June the parameters for the inquiry were set leading to its sitting across Australia in the following year. One of its six aims was to examine the

... desirability and practicability of conducting a search for HMAS *Sydney* and the extent to which the Commonwealth Government should participate in such a search should one be deemed desirable and practicable.

The question of whether archival material was also still to be found was also raised as a matter of considerable priority. Finally, after an exhaustive round of national hearings and after collating all the evidence received into an 18-volume set, the Committee made 17 recommendations, including

Recommendation 10. The Royal Australian Navy sponsor a seminar on the likely search areas for Sydney and Kormoran, involving as many of the individual researchers and groups as possible.

Recommendation 11. After the search area is more accurately defined, some preliminary surveys be undertaken to try and confirm the accuracy of the wreck locations, prior to a full in-water search. An initial search for HSK Kormoran at or near 26°32'-34' S, 111°E, if supported by the seminar, would seem a logical starting point.

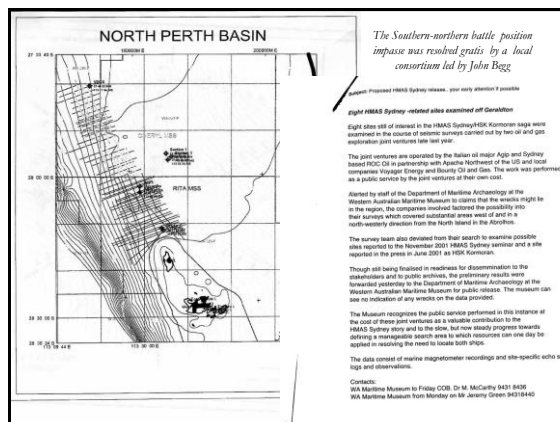


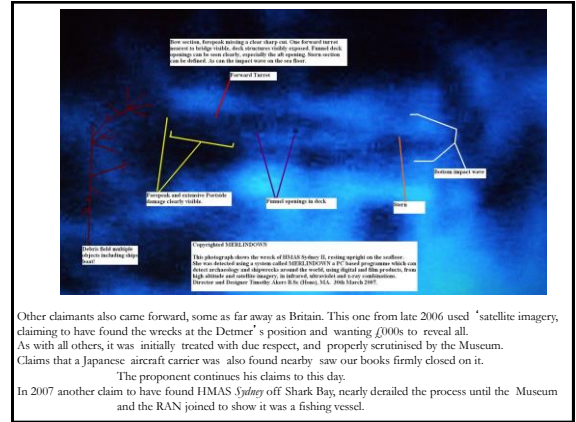
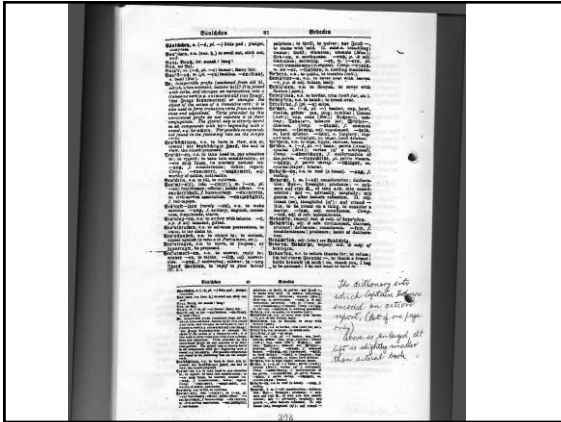
The SPC Seminar was split between proponents of a northern battle position (Detmer's area) and a southern battle (Abrolhos area).

The latter was part-based on

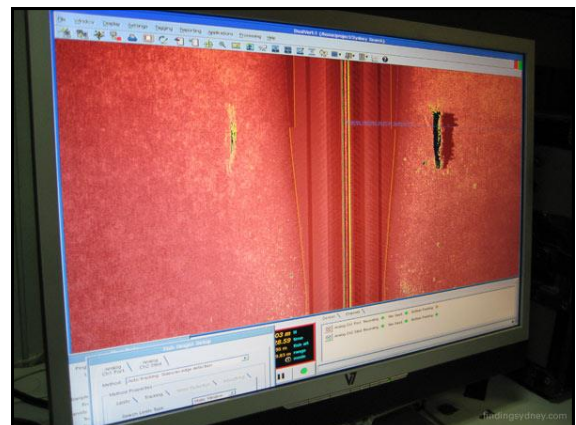
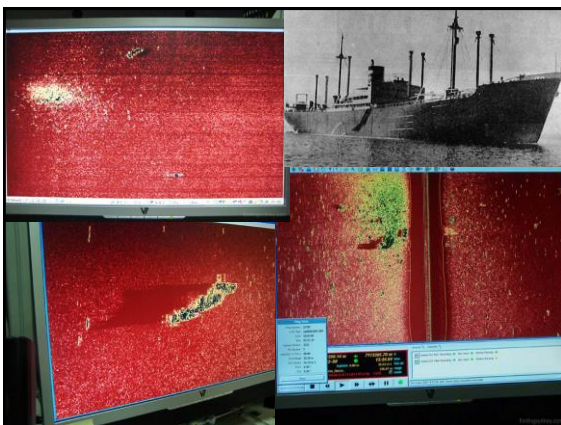
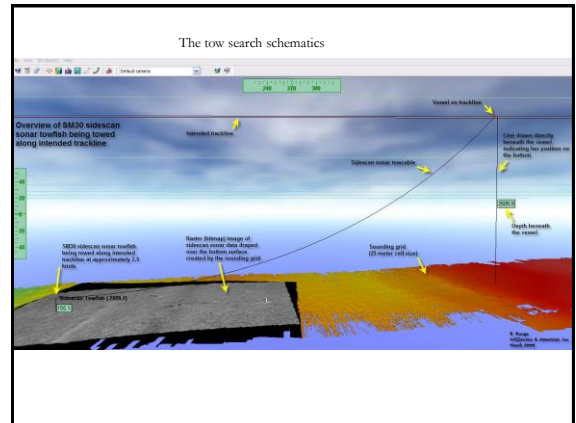
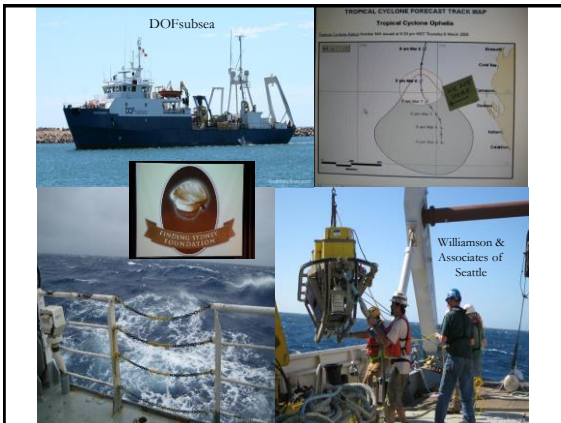
- 1) reports of flashes and gunfire one November night in WWII.
- 2) Lindsay Knight's map dowsing method and his Knight Subtle Energy Detection System 'found' three wrecks off the Abrolhos.
- 3) Some (including former RAN navigators) claimed that it was impossible for German lifeboats to make the voyage from the Detmer's position to the Cliffs north of Carnarvon.

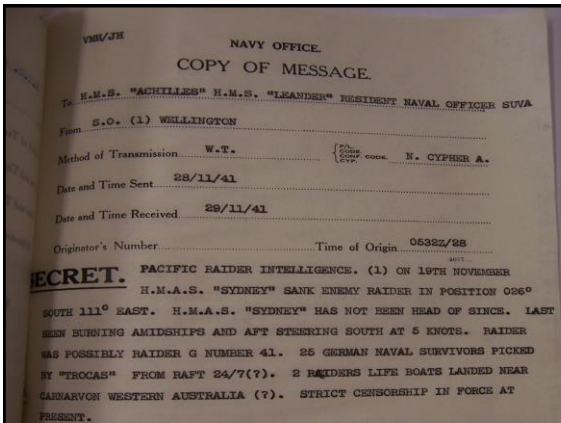
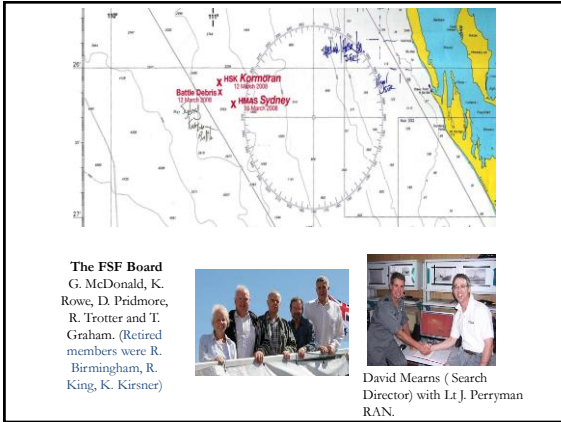
The Museum's attempts to find a solution came to nought.

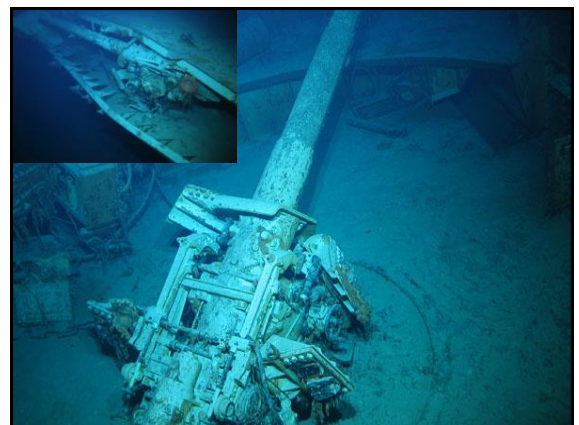
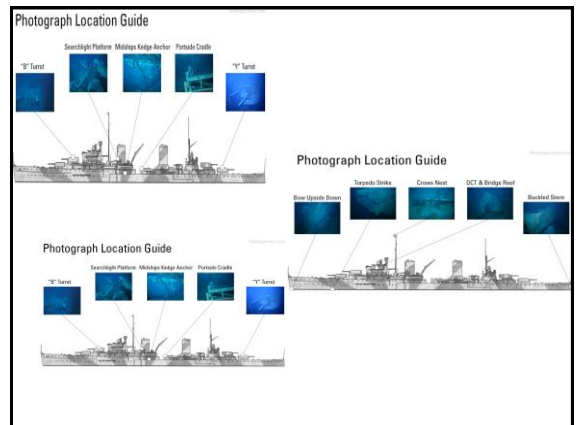
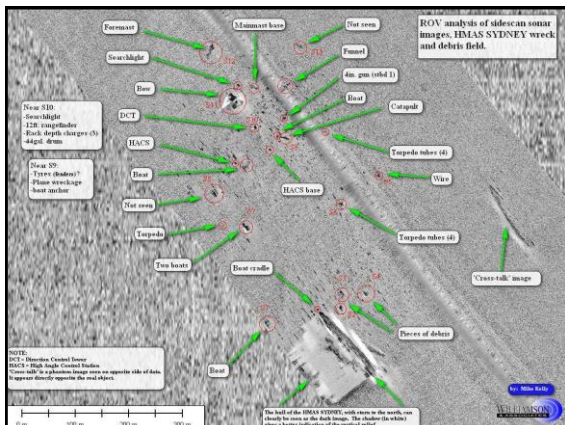


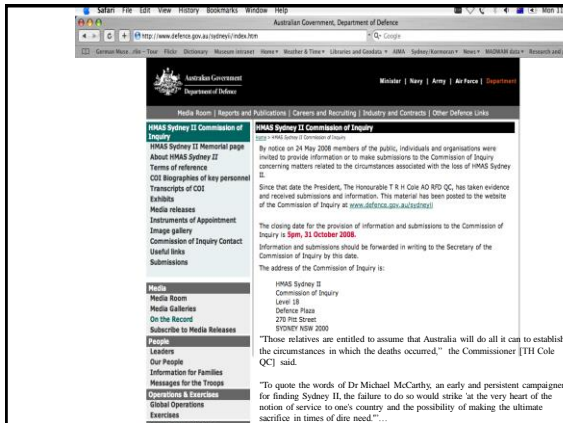
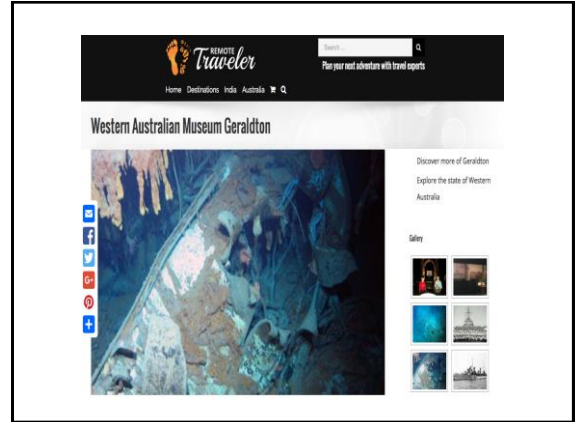


Other claimants also came forward, some as far away as Britain. This one from late 2006 used 'satellite imagery, claiming to have found the wrecks at the Detmer's position and wanting £000s to reveal all. As with all others, it was initially treated with due respect, and properly scrutinised by the Museum. Claims that a Japanese aircraft carrier was also found nearby saw our books firmly closed on it. The proponent continues his claims to this day. In 2007 another claim to have found HMAS Sydney off Shark Bay, nearly derailed the process until the Museum and the RAN joined to show it was a fishing vessel.



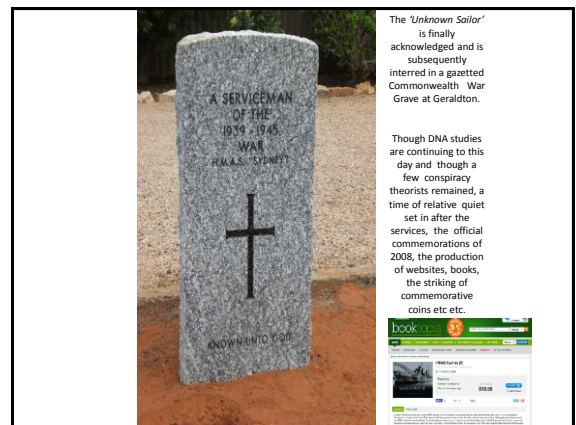


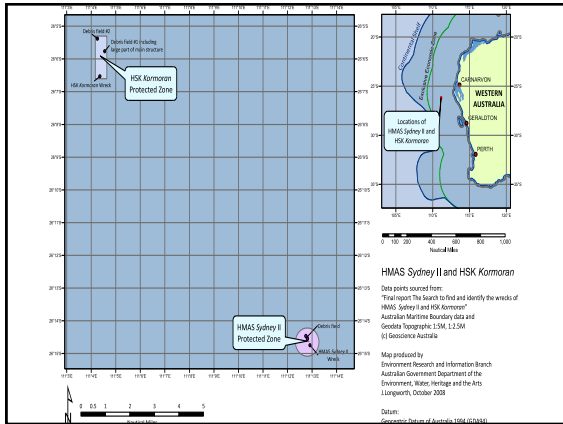




HMAS Sydney II Commission of Inquiry Exhibits List

Exhibit Number	Title	Document Date	Document Type	Document ID	Date Transferred
0001	Instrument of Appointment				30-May-08
0002	Procedural Directions for the conduct of the Commission of Inquiry				30-May-08
0003	Statutory Declaration of Thomas Patrick Fisher declared 23/06/08	23-Jun-08	Statutory Declaration	WIT.001.0001	23-Jun-08
0004	Photograph marked (a) of a forensic photograph showing death charges, marked (a), and signal lamps, marked (b)	N/A	Photograph	WIT.001.0014	23-Jun-08
0005	Statutory Declaration of Ernest William Braddock declared 22/06/08	22-Jun-08	Statutory Declaration	WIT.002.0001	23-Jun-08
0006	Statutory Declaration of Gordon Clair Lavender	24-Jun-08	Statutory Declaration	WIT.003.0001	24-Jun-08
0006A	Orthographic drawing of HMAS Sydney II from National Archives, marked WIT.003.0007		Diagram	WIT.003.0007	24-Jun-08
0007	Four photographs produced by J. Lavender	N/A			
0007A	Photograph, marked (a), of a forensic photograph showing a ship's bow, marked (a), in 1959	N/A	Photograph	WIT.003.0008	24-Jun-08
0007B	Photograph showing a whale on HMAS Sydney II	N/A	Photograph	WIT.003.0009	24-Jun-08
0007C	Photograph of Gordon Clair Lavender with another on the forecastle of HMAS Sydney II in Fremantle Harbour, Western Australia	N/A	Photograph	WIT.003.0010	24-Jun-08
0007D	Photograph of forecastle of HMAS Sydney II showing a funnel, marked (a)	N/A	Photograph	WIT.003.0011	24-Jun-08





November 2011

Two 'dreamers' from Curtin University arrive on the scene: They show a 3D reconstruction based on the 2008 imagery and seek the Museum's support for a return to the wrecks.



Andrew Woods

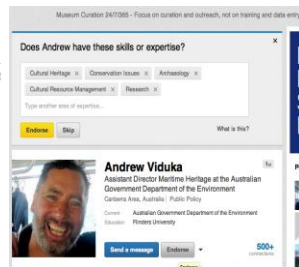
Andrew Hutchison

Making the Inaccessible Accessible'



'INACCESSIBLE HISTORIC SITES MUST BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO THE PEOPLE.'

(Andrew Viduka, Heritage & Wildlife Division, Commonwealth Government)



Being a science-based institution, Curtin has extended accessibility to the nation's scientists while at the same time keeping the WA Museum's focus on those lost. This only became possible through DotSubsea's extraordinary 'gift